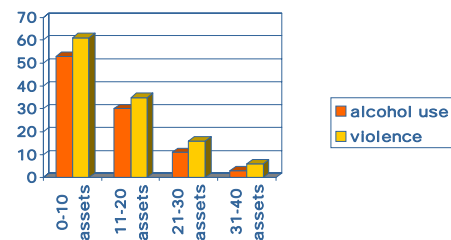


# Positive Youth Development

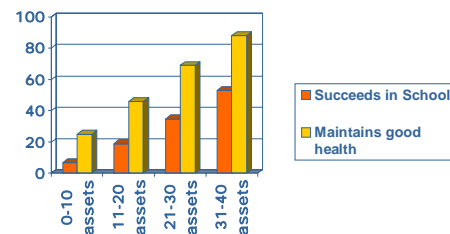
## Fact Sheet

Research shows that the more developmental assets a young person possesses the less likely they are to engage in risky behaviors and more likely to make healthy behavioral choices. Developmental assets are grouped into eight categories: support, empowerment, boundaries and expectations, constructive use of time, commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies and positive identity. Most young people with many developmental assets make wise decisions, choose positive paths, and grow up to be competent, caring and responsible adults. Everyone can build assets. Families, schools, neighborhoods, congregations, and all organizations, institutions, and individuals in a community can play a role in building assets for youth.

### Power of Assets



### Promoting Positive Attitudes & Behaviors



## How You Can Build Assets in Youth

### INDIVIDUALS/PARENTS

- ★ Can volunteer as a club leader, coach, or mentor for young people
- ★ Make eye contact with and say "hi" to children and teenagers in your neighborhood
- ★ Challenge people who say things that reflect negative stereotypes of youth
- ★ Model responsible behavior for young people
- ★ Talk to young people about what you expect before they've crossed a boundary they didn't know about or understand
- ★ Offer to provide young people with transportation to and from activities or lessons
- ★ Donate high-quality books to libraries, community centers, day care centers, schools
- ★ Respect and affirm young people when they make good decisions and plan well
- ★ Help young people start conversations with people who are different from them
- ★ Find at least one thing to praise a young person for each day
- ★ Encourage young people to set high standards for themselves

### SCHOOLS

- ★ Have teachers personally contact each family at least once a year
- ★ Integrate service learning into the school curriculum
- ★ Take steps to ensure that school is a safe place to learn
- ★ Involve youth in establishing clear boundaries for appropriate behavior at school

- ★ Challenge students to have high standards for themselves
- ★ Encourage reading and learning beyond the school's curriculum
- ★ Recognize and affirm the strengths of young people of all backgrounds and cultural heritages in your school
- ★ Build students' skills in resolving conflicts peacefully
- ★ Highlight the common values at stake in discussions of health and personal responsibility

### CONGREGATIONS

- ★ Encourage each adult member to get to know five youth members
- ★ Include and encourage youth to participate in all congregation-wide activities
- ★ Regularly notice and celebrate young people's contributions to the congregation and the community
- ★ Set clear expectations about behaviors during congregational activities
- ★ Recognize students who have excelled in such areas as scholarship, arts, music, sports, and service to the community
- ★ Coordinate youth activities so they do not interfere with homework or other school activities
- ★ Through trips, speakers, service projects, and simulations, make community and world issues personally relevant to youth
- ★ Invite youth to express their beliefs, acknowledging their need to explore and question
- ★ Talk about the challenges and the rewards of maintaining relationships with people of different backgrounds, religious beliefs, and cultures
- ★ Provide youth to talk about their vocational choices from a faith perspective

### BUSINESSES

- ★ Develop family friendly policies that encourage parents to be active in their children's lives
- ★ If you run a neighborhood business, make it a place where young people know they can come for help in an emergency
- ★ Recognize youth who contribute to the community
- ★ Provide mentoring or internship opportunities for young people
- ★ Set high standards for youth who work for you
- ★ Sponsor clubs, sports teams, service projects, and other constructive activities for young people
- ★ Encourage employees to volunteer in youth programs or in schools
- ★ Create an employee volunteer effort, and encourage employees to include their families
- ★ Model integrity, honesty, responsibility, and caring for youth who work for you
- ★ Include young people who are doing internships in your business in planning meetings
- ★ Speak at school assemblies or other youth gatherings about the positive future you see for young people
- ★ Allow young people who work for you to have as much control as possible over things that happen to them at work

### Additional Resource

Search Institute – [www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org)